

Gary Cordell joined the Haslam Administration in March of 2011. He came to state government from the private sector with a wealth of experience in operations management, finance and staff development. Cordell previously served as the finance director with the Better Business Bureau of Middle Tennessee. He was also chief operating officer at Clayton Associates, a Venture Capital firm, and served as president of Cherokee Equity Corporation, both Tennessee corporations.

He is a former chairman of the board of Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee and the former Chairman of the Middle Tennessee Better Business Bureau. He currently serves as a director on the Goodwill Industries, Leadership Nashville Alumni, Park Center and Nashville Crime Stoppers boards. In 1986, he served as campaign manager for former Governor Winfield Dunn.

Cordell earned a Master of Arts in Organizational Management from Trevecca University and a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Behavior from Covenant College. He was an adjunct professor for three years at Aquinas College in Nashville, where he taught management and strategic business.

He and his wife, Kathleen, reside in Franklin, Tennessee and have five children.